# Chilean Rightist Says He Refused ITT Offer

Post 3/24/73

SANTIAGO, March 23 (AP) —A prominent conservative politician said today that he turned down an offer from an executive of International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. to help anti-Marxist Chileans block the election of Salvador Allende as president.

Arturo Matte Larrain said in a telephone interview that Robert Berrellez, an ITT public relations executive, made the offer two years ago while the election of Allende, a Marxist, hung in the balance.

[Matte's statement confirmed testimony Berrellez gave to a Senate subcommittee investigation conducted by Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) this week.]

Matte was campaign manager for ex-President Jorge Alessandri at the time. Alessandri, a conservative, was one of two non-Marxist candidates running against Allende.

The offer was made while the Chilean people waited to see if Congress would confirm Allende's election because the Marxist candidate had failed to muster a majority of the popular vote as required by the constitution.

"He (Berrellez) offered assistance but money was not mentioned," Matte said. "We turned him down.

"He seemed to be very interested in preventing Allende from taking office," the politician said. "There were a lot of people at the time interested in keeping out Allende. I didn't want to have anything to do with him."

Matte said that he finally told Berrellez: "You will be advised." He said nothing more was said about the offer.